IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1. (Previously Presented) A write protection method for an optical disc recording and/or reproducing apparatus, the method comprising:

checking write protection information stored in an RMD (Recording Management Data) field of an RMA (Recording Management Area) area to protect data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, the RMA being separate from a lead-in area of the recording medium; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium according to the write protection information,

wherein a plurality of identical write protection information is stored in physically separate locations.

2. (Previously Presented) A recording medium satisfying a DVD-R specification to record data, including an entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, the recording medium comprising:

a Lead-in area;

a Lead-out area; and

the user data area,

wherein write protection state information is recorded and is selectable between write protection states, and

wherein, upon completion of finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area, the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring protection of the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, the write protection state information being stored in an area separate from the Lead-in area of the recording medium.

3. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording medium comprises a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

4. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 2, wherein the recording medium comprises a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.

5. (Previously Presented) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, for a recording medium satisfying a DVD-R specification, comprising a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area, and a user data area, comprises write protection state information that is selectable between write protection states, and the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring protection of data, comprising an entirety of the user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, the write protection state information being stored in an area separate from the Lead-in area of the recording medium, the write protection method comprising:

checking the state of the recording medium; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the state of the recording medium is a write protection state.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The write protection method of claim 5, wherein the recording medium is positioned in a case of a cartridge comprising a write inhibit hole for write protection.

8-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A recording medium to record data, comprising:

a user data area; and

an information area having write protection information,

wherein the recording medium is configured to store at least two write protection information in RMD (Recording Management Data) fields of an RMA (Recording Management Area) area to protect the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, the RMA being separate from a lead-in area of the recording medium.

14. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium is further configured to satisfy a DVD-RW (digital Versatile Disc Rewritable) specification.

15. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the write protection information is stored in physically separate locations at a plurality of times.

16. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 15, wherein the recording medium is further configured to indicate a write protection state when writing protection information from one of the plurality of physically separate locations matches writing protection information read from another one of the physically separate locations.

17. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium further comprises a recording information area, distinct from the Lead-in area, the Lead-out area, and the user data area, and comprising RMD fields, the RMD fields being configured to store information indicative of pre-use certification and defect management in use.

18. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein:

the RMD fields are grouped; and

the same write protection information is stored in the RMD fields belonging to the same group.

19. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein:

the write protection information is stored in a byte position BP3 of RMD field 0; and

information indicative of types of recording medium, indicating whether the recording medium satisfies the DVD-RW specification, is stored in byte positions BPO and BP1 of the RMD field 0.

20. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium comprises a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.

21. (New) A disc to record data, the disc comprising:

a lead-in area comprising a read-only area having information on physical specification of the disc and rewritable data area; and

a user data area;

wherein a disc definition structure is stored in a defect management area of the rewritable area, and a write protection information of the disc is stored in the disc definition structure, and

wherein the write protection information informs to a recording apparatus receiving the disc whether a recording of user data on the user data area is prohibited.

22. (New) An apparatus for recording data on a disc, said disc including a lead-in area comprising a read-only area having information on physical specification of the disc and a rewritable data area, and a user data area, the apparatus comprising:

a pickup for recording user data on the user data area of the disc;

a controller for checking a write protection information stored in a disc definition structure of a defect management area in the rewritable area, and for determining whether recording of user data on the user data area of the disc is prohibited.